



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 February 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Canadian Press reports the Ontario government has launched an information campaign to help consumers avoid becoming victims of identity theft, North America's fastest-growing crime. (See item [8](#))
- vnunet.com reports that according to vulnerability assessments conducted by the Application Defense Center of security firm WebCohort, at least 92 percent of Web applications are vulnerable to some form of hacker attack. (See item [27](#))
- CNET News reports RealNetworks has acknowledged that three flaws affecting different versions of its media player could allow attackers to create corrupt music or video files that, when played, take control of a victim's PC. (See item [29](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 06, Reuters* — Ice storm leaves 64,000 in dark in U.S. Appalachia. Appalachian utilities said Friday they were working to restore electric service to about 64,000 customers left in the dark following an ice storm that hit the region on Thursday, February 5. A spokesperson at Allegheny Energy Inc. said about 40,000 homes and businesses throughout its five-state service territory were without power Friday morning. Neighboring

Midwest utility American Electric Power Co Inc., meanwhile, reported it had 24,000 customers without service in West Virginia. AEP, of Columbus, OH, said in a statement on its Website it did not expect to restore service to all customers until Sunday evening. Power outages occur when freezing rain and wet snow weighs down trees and branches and they fall on power lines, snapping them.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_02_06_eng-reuters_pma_ICE-STORM-LEAVES-IN-DARK-IN-U-S-APPALACHIA&SMContentSet=0

2. *February 06, Daily Press (VA)* — **Nuke fuel storage expansion planned. Dominion Generation is preparing to expand its on-site storage of used nuclear fuel at the Surry Power Station, located near Williamsburg, VA, where the radioactive material will continue to be kept until a permanent national storage facility is completed.** Dominion stores all of the spent uranium rods that power Surry's two nuclear reactors at an underground storage pool and in above-ground, concrete casks at the power plant, but the available storage is filling up. The expansion is also needed because it will be years before the federal Department of Energy is ready to open a central, national spent fuel storage site at Yucca Mountain, NV. President Bush and Congress approved the site in 2002, but extensive design and regulatory work remains. Construction at the Surry plant likely will begin in June and be completed in about nine months, said Brian H. Wakeman, lead engineer with Dominion Generation's fuel department. **The expansion would allow Surry to continue to store spent fuel through 2019, Wakeman said, but Dominion intends on shipping all spent fuel to Yucca Mountain once it opens.**

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/southofjames/dp-55138sy0feb06.0.7593148.story>

3. *February 06, The Pittsburgh Channel (PA)* — **Over 1,000 gallons of gasoline missing from gas station. BP Oil officials are checking several underground tanks for leaks after 1,700 gallons of gasoline vanished from a Monroeville, PA gas station.** BP discovered the missing fuel last month at its station near the corner of Monroeville Boulevard and Stroeshine Road but the **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) can not seem to find any evidence of gasoline in the soil beneath the underground tanks.** DEP said there is no indication the gas will enter the water supply.

Source: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/2826553/detail.html>

4. *February 06, Associated Press* — **Oak Ridge's nuclear waste heading west. The first of as many as 700 shipments of nuclear waste bound for disposal sites in Nevada and New Mexico have left the Department of Energy's weapons and research operations in Oak Ridge, TN. The first truck shipment left Foster Wheeler's new \$76 million waste-processing plant in Oak Ridge on January 26, headed for the government's Nevada Test Site.** "It's a big deal," Gary Riner, project manager at the Department of Energy, said of the effort to rid Oak Ridge of some of its most radioactive wastes. Foster Wheeler will receive about \$2.5 million per waste shipment during the next few months until it recovers about 75% of the processing plant's capital costs; payments thereafter will be based on the quantity shipped.

Source: http://www.tennessean.com/local/archives/04/02/46572475.shtm!/?Element_ID=46572475

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *February 06, Aerospace Daily* — **USAF plans serious look at replacing special ops aircraft. The U.S. Air Force plans to start taking a serious look at potential replacements for several C-130 variants used by its special operations forces, a service representative said.** Maj. Gen. John Dorris said the Bush Administration's fiscal 2005 budget request contains "seed money" to develop concepts for an "MX" aircraft, which would replace the MC-130E/H airdrop/transport aircraft, and an "AX" which would replace the AC-130 gunship. **With surface-to-air threats becoming increasingly sophisticated, the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) believes it will need to begin fielding the new aircraft in about 2015 as a replacement for its aging C-130 variants, Dorris said.** The MX is envisioned as a long-range aircraft that is "able to do the mission in one period of darkness," Dorris said. The latest thinking for the AX is that it would be a "mothership that sends out sensors." The sensors would then report back to the mothership, which would send out "lethal and/or non-lethal projectiles," possibly small, guided missiles.
Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/mx02064.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *February 07, Agence France-Presse* — **Nigerians charged over scam that sank bank. Nigerian prosecutors have charged four men and a woman with perpetrating a US\$242 million fraud -- the most spectacular "419 scam" in the west African country's murky history of financial double-dealing.** All five defendants pleaded not guilty to charges relating to the 2001 plot in which a Brazilian bank collapsed after huge sums were siphoned into foreign accounts by an employee who had been duped by the Nigeria-based gang. **Nigeria's fledgling anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, hopes the case will serve as proof that President Olusegun Obasanjo's Government has begun to tackle 419, also known as "advance fee fraud," the country's signature crime.** In 2001 Brazil's Banco Noroeste of Sao Paulo collapsed after an official transferred millions of dollars to a network of foreign accounts in exchange for a false promise of a kickback on the contract to build Abuja's new international airport. Much of the stolen money had been located and was now frozen in the Central Bank of Nigeria.
Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/02/06/1075854068538.html>

7.

February 06, Associated Press — **Nigerian convicted in e-mail scam.** A federal jury in Houston, TX, Thursday found a Nigerian man guilty of conspiracy and wire fraud for an e-mail scam. Investigators said the scheme involved requests to help getting a box, allegedly containing \$22 million, through U.S. Customs. Victims of the scam were told a box containing the money had arrived at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport -- and if they would claim the box, they'd get 15 percent of the cash. Prosecutors say once a person agreed, the defendant, Ambrose Kizito Agwuibe, would say money was needed up front to cover shipping, handling and other costs. Money was wired to Agwuibe and another man, Patrick Omu, from across the U.S. Authorities learned of the scam from a Western Union employee. Source: http://news9sanantonio.com/content/top_stories/default.asp?A rID=9033

8. *February 05, Canadian Press* — **Ontario government urges consumers to get smart about identity theft. The Ontario (Canada) government has launched an information campaign to help consumers avoid becoming victims of identity theft. The campaign, called Keep Your Identity Safe, was introduced Thursday, February 5, by Consumer and Business Services Minister Jim Watson.** Watson said identity theft is North America's fastest-growing crime. "[Thieves are] realizing that there are ways to exploit people through their personal information and assume their identity, and for too many years, it was too easy," Watson said. **The province is also introducing an identity theft statement designed to allow victims of identity theft to more quickly notify banks, retailers, police and consumer protection agencies.** "This is a crime of new technology, a crime that reaches far into all parts of society," said Paul McGrath, director of security for the Canadian Bankers Association. "We expect this new form will dramatically simplify the process, enabling all financial institutions to help their customers restore their financial health sooner."

Source: <http://www.canada.com/ottawa/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?i d=974881fe-baf4-4fe4-b21f-56ca80ff5ad0>

9. *February 05, Finextra.com* — **Federal Reserve explores creation of special-purpose crisis clearing bank.** The Federal Reserve has established a private-sector working group to explore the creation of a dormant bank that would be available for activation to clear and settle U.S. government securities during times of crisis. **The 'NewBank' concept was floated earlier this year by a working group on Government Securities Clearance and Settlement as a measure to help mitigate risks to the financial system from the failure of one of the two major clearing banks, JPMorgan Chase and Bank of New York.** It is envisaged that NewBank would be ready for activation in the event that one of the clearers permanently exited the business, voluntarily or involuntarily, and no well-qualified bank stepped forward to purchase the exiting bank's clearing business. The Fed has asked the new working group to flesh out the NewBank concept and address any challenges to implementing it. They are expected to report back later this year.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=11122>

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Transportation Sector

10. *February 07, Associated Press* — **Airport screeners hired without checks.** In a rush to hire workers, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) put thousands of screeners at the

nation's airports without required background checks, the Homeland Security Department's inspector general said, February 6. Eighty-five of the workers were felons, later fired. **In an interview, Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin said more than 18,000 baggage and passenger screeners worked five months or more without getting fingerprint or other checks as of May 2003.** Those checks are required by law. Ervin said the airport security agency was under great pressure to hire screeners and meet "extremely tight deadlines by Congress." **In an internal review, the Inspector General's Office found that some screeners were allowed to stay on the job for weeks or months after checks turned up criminal convictions.** In one case, the report said, more than 500 boxes of unprocessed background check forms for more than 20,000 screeners were found by the government at a former contractor's office. David Stone, acting administrator of the security agency, acknowledged missteps and has begun action to correct them. For the remarks by David Stone, see http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_0083c3d
Source: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=national&story_id=020704a3_screeners

11. *February 07, CNN* — **Freight train derails in northeast Maryland.** A freight train carrying a hazardous material derailed Saturday in northeastern Maryland, forcing the evacuation of a small community. No injuries were reported, said a spokesman for the Cecil County Department of Public Safety. **Twenty cars of the CSX train — some of which were carrying phosphoric acid — derailed two miles north of the town of Northeast near Interstate 95, said Mike Dixon.** The wreck was reported about 12:30 p.m., February 7. About an hour later, residents of Timberbrook were evacuated and taken to a fire station in Elkton, Dixon said. Northeast is about 30 miles southwest of Wilmington, Delaware. Phosphoric acid is mostly used in the production of agricultural fertilizers, with the remainder used for detergent additives, cleaners, insecticide production, and cattle feed additives.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/South/02/07/maryland.train/index.html>
12. *February 05, Government Technology* — **Kentucky acquires new Transportation Operations Center.** Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet recently acquired a new state-of-the-art center called Transportation Operations Center (TOC). **The TOC was developed to help coordinate operations and incident management activities on Kentucky's highway system, and create an integrated program that links traffic operations centers, emergency response agencies and transit agencies by real-time communications.** "We are pleased to have such a unique space designed specifically for an operations center. Safety is a high priority for us in the cabinet and through the use of technology, we are now able to manage incidents on the highways more effectively and help motorists arrive safely at their destination," explained Transportation Cabinet Secretary Clay Bailey. Some of TOC's responsibilities include providing centralized dispatching for all Kentucky vehicle enforcement officers, coordinating all emergency response and recovery efforts for 12 transportation districts, being a liaison to and serving as a backup for the state Emergency Operations Center, monitoring current weather conditions and forecasting weather.
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=87498>
13. *February 05, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mineta announces \$4 million for expanded bus service and transit enhancements for Virginia.** Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta on February 5, announced that \$4 million in

bus and transit grants will be awarded in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The grants will add new bus services and more parking for Virginia Railway Express (VRE) users.

Representative Tom Davis (VA–11th district) noted, “These federal funds will help alleviate the traffic congestion that plagues Northern Virginia families everyday.” A \$1,967,165 grant to the Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) will be used to complete the design for parking improvements at the Virginia Railway Express Burke Center Commuter Rail Station in Burke, VA. Another grant for \$2,065,725 will be used for the purchase of eight new transit coaches for PRTC's OmniRide commuter bus service. Seven vehicles will replace existing OmniRide buses and one vehicle will be used to expand OmniRide service.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fta0304.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *February 06, Associated Press* — Ricin attacks may stop letters from reaching Congress .

Despite the flood of e-mails, faxes and telephone calls that Congress receives daily, handwritten and typed letters are still the main way members of the House and Senate correspond with the people who elected them. No one among the several thousand employees of Congress became ill this week from the latest attack by mail. But dozens of people had to be decontaminated and three Senate office buildings were shut down after an intern in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's office found a suspicious white powder while going through letters in his mailroom. It was the second time since October 2001 that congressional interns opening letters have proved to be the weak point in the Capitol's security. "Something has to be done, because we can't continue to put these young interns in danger like this," said Sen. Trent Lott, R–MS, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. **Lott is looking at new computer technology already being tested in the House for scanning letters and delivering them to lawmakers' offices digitally. However, many worry that any further change would make pen and paper the slowest and most unreliable way to talk to Congress.**

Source: <http://www.tribnet.com/24hour/politics/story/1141045p-794720 8c.html>

15. *February 03, Philadelphia Inquirer* — Ricin scare reveals limits of USPS' system. The U.S.

Postal Service (USPS) is installing a new biohazard–detection system, but as now configured the system would not have detected the ricin that turned up Monday, February 2, in a Senate office building. "Right now we're set up for anthrax," said Paul Smith, public affairs manager for the USPS Eastern region. "The system can be configured to stop other agents; it would require a software adjustment." **The system is being installed in 282 mail–processing plants across the country.** The dissemination of anthrax through the mail has been an overriding concern for the Postal Service since the attacks in the fall of 2001 that killed five people nationwide, including two employees at the Brentwood Mail Processing and Distribution Center in Washington, DC. USPS last year tested the system and has thus far installed it in four mail–processing facilities. **The national rollout of the system begins next month.** Originally, USPS considered buying equipment that would use radiation to neutralize biological threats. As the agency learned by irradiating federal mail, the equipment is expensive and can damage mail. And, in the case of ricin, which is an inert toxin, irradiation would not work.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/7866452.htm>

Agriculture Sector

16. *February 07, Reuters* — **Flu fears force cull of Delaware birds. A flock of 12,000 chickens in Delaware was destroyed on Saturday in a bid to prevent the spread of avian flu. State agriculture officials said the virus differs from the one that has killed people in Asia.** The chickens were slaughtered on a farm in southern Kent County, DE, after two birds tested positive for the H7 strain of the virus on Friday, Delaware agriculture secretary Michael Scuse said. The H7 strain found in Delaware is fatal to poultry but does not transmit to humans. Scuse said he was "fairly confident" the virus had not spread. As a safeguard, however, other flocks within a two-mile radius of the infected farm will be tested.
Source: <http://news.myway.com/top/article/id/383848|top|02-07-2004:: 14:14|reuters.html>
17. *February 06, Agricultural Research Service* — **Winning the fruit fly battle in Hawaii. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Hawaii are leading the first successful effort to deal with the exotic fruit flies that have devastated Hawaiian farms for a century. The program is not only controlling fruit flies and improving Hawaiian agriculture, but also may help keep foreign fruit flies out of the continental United States.** If exotic fruit flies became established in California, the direct and indirect losses could amount to \$1.4 billion annually in that state alone. The Hawaii Area-Wide Fruit Fly Integrated Pest Management Program (HAW-FLYPM), a joint effort of ARS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, and the University of Hawaii, depends primarily on a system of field sanitation, biological controls, and lures rather than chemical insecticides. Fruit fly control is also allowing farmers to grow more types of crops.
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2004/040206.htm>
18. *February 06, Associated Press* — **Elk near infected ranch test positive for brucellosis. Four elk tested positive for brucellosis at the Muddy Creek elk feedground near Boulder in western Wyoming, State Veterinarian Jim Logan announced Wednesday. The testing was done at Logan's request to see if brucellosis found in two cattle herds in the state could be linked to infected elk.** Game and Fish employees and Wyoming Livestock Board representatives collected blood samples from 15 elk. The four elk that tested positive will be killed so tissue samples can be compared with samples from infected cattle from the nearby ranch to see if they carried related bacteria. **According to Logan, last week's tests indicated 27 percent of the Muddy Creek female elk were infected with brucellosis.** Brucellosis, which causes domestic and elk cows to abort and humans to experience chronic flu-like symptoms, has been found in two Wyoming cattle herds, the first near Boulder and the second in Worland. The Worland herd originated with the Boulder herd.
Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2004/02/06/news/wyoming/327a3eb95631945587256e32000677ac.txt>
19. *February 05, Reuters* — **Brazil fears lack of Asia soy rust fungicide . The Brazil government is concerned about a possible shortage of fungicide to protect soybean crops from Asian soy rust, a leading plant pathologist said. "People took precautions in areas such as the center-west, where there was an outbreak last year. But there's now a shortage of**

fungicide because some producers bought enough for three applications," Jose Tadashi Yorinori of the government's crop research agency, Embrapa, said. **He estimated the soy rust fungus was present in 37 million acres out of Brazil's 49 million acres of soy.** "Practically all the producer states are affected," he said after a meeting in the ministry of agriculture to discuss the disease. Tadashi said emergency imports of fungicide were being considered.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-02-05T201000Z_01_N05358211_RTRIDST_0_FOOD-BRAZIL-SOY-RUST.html

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Food Sector

20. *February 05, Canadian Press* — **New quick test means Alberta can speed up testing for BSE. The wait for results of testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta, Canada, could be cut in half with the introduction of a rapid test, provincial agriculture officials said Thursday.** The province has ordered 30 BioRad test kits from a company in France through a special permit from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Alberta had committed to a turnaround time of 10 days to get testing done on tissue from animals suspected of having BSE, said chief provincial veterinarian Gerald Ollis. "The rapid test allows us to cut that in half, so we're committing to a five-day turnaround, and we may be able to work on that some more," he said. Between 11,000 and 12,000 tests for BSE and chronic wasting disease, a similar illness found in deer and elk, were done in Alberta last year. An estimated 30,000 cattle were slaughtered in the province. **"Our people are telling us that with automation and robotics, this rapid test will allow us to do up to 1,000 samples a week,"** said Ollis. **"What it means is that we've been able to implement leading edge science to verify the level of BSE in our cattle population."** The current method of testing, called immunohistochemistry or IHC, will still be used if positive or inconclusive results arise. Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/cpress/20040206/ca_pr_on_na/mad_cow_test_1
21. *February 05, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Cheese recalled. Peregrina Cheese Co. in Brooklyn, New York, is recalling 14 ounce packages of "Queso Fresco" Fresh Cheese because it has the potential to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes.** Listeria can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The recalled "Queso Fresco" Fresh Cheese was distributed to retail stores in metro New York City and northern New Jersey. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. **The contamination was noted after testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revealed the presence of Listeria monocytogenes.** The FDA and the company continue to investigate the source of the problem. Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/peregrina02_04.html
22. *February 05, Associated Press* — **Scientists developing bacteria detection device.** Jay Glasel, a biochemistry professor at the University of Connecticut, envisions a day when supermarket employees will be able to scan meat packages to determine whether the food is contaminated with dangerous bacteria. That may happen soon, as Glasel and his team of scientists are developing a prototype device that would detect bacteria. **For almost a year, Glasel and five other scientists have been researching ways to develop an inexpensive food pathogen**

detector. Such a detector would not only help prevent the spread of an epidemic, but also warn of terrorism attacks that target food. "At the present time," Glasel says, "the only way an epidemic shows up is when a lot of people show up at the hospital. In a wartime scenario, that's a disaster." Glasel's research is being funded by a two-year, \$3 million grant via the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Glasel says the device at would work much like scanners at grocery stores. An employee or a customer would pass the food under the device, which would indicate whether the product was contaminated.** The device also could be used at processing plants and distribution centers. The military also is interested in having such a device, especially for overseas operations, because it usually purchases local produce, Glasel says.

Source: http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-05154004_apds.m0048.bc-ct-fea--feb05.0.7932000.story?coll=hc-headlines-local-wire

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

23. *February 07, Daily Star (Bangladesh)* — **Disease caused by Nipha virus. The disease that claimed the lives of 11 children in Goalondo, Bangladesh, was caused by the Nipha virus, the civil surgeon of Goalondo said, citing a group of visiting foreign medical experts.** The team of foreign experts held a briefing session at Goalondo Upazila Health Complex Friday to ascertain the cause of the 'unknown disease' that killed 11 of the 73 affected children during the January 16 to February 5 period. Earlier, local medical experts termed the disease as viral encephalitis with symptoms of high fever and other complications, said Civil Surgeon Matiur Rahman. He said two children at Goalondo Health Complex and two others at Dhaka Medical College Hospital are still under treatment. The foreign medical team includes representatives of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.
Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/2004/02/07/d40207013333.htm>

24. *February 06, Reuters* — **Pigs get clean bill of health as bird flu toll hits 18. Two more people have died in Vietnam of bird flu, taking Asia's death toll to 18, but UN agencies have dismissed earlier reports that the virus had spread to pigs.** A day after China said bird flu had spread to more provinces and UN agencies chided Asian countries for being slow to sound the alarm, a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) official in Vietnam said on Friday three or four pigs had tested positive for the virus. That was a worrying development since the immune system of pigs is similar to that of humans. But a FAO scientist said the tests referred to were not up to standard. "The news that he reported was based we believe on studies with an experimental test," Peter Roeder, a FAO animal health expert said. Scientists say pigs are ideal vessels for mixing genes from the bird flu pathogen and the human influenza virus. The World Health Organization has said this could result in the emergence of a new subtype of virus for which humans would have no immunity. The world animal health body OIE said it would not

be surprised if pigs in Asia tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/WireFeed/WireFeed&c=WireFeed&cid=1074160659136>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *February 06, Washington Post* — Many call centers likely to miss E-911 deadline. Half of the emergency 911 centers still will not be able to track cell calls by next year's deadline for wireless companies to outfit their phones with locator technology, according to a group that represents call center administrators. **State and local governments would have to more than double their annual spending to \$1.7 billion to meet the deadline, the National Emergency Number Association said in a report Thursday, February 5. That is an unlikely prospect given the budget shortfalls facing many local governments.** "The reality is there's never going to be enough money to all the things we need to do," said Jeff Arnold, deputy legislative director for the National Association of Counties. When someone calls 911 from a regular home or business phone, the address automatically is displayed on the screen of one of 6,000 call centers. But a traditional cell phone cannot be tracked. The companies either must use a global positioning device in 95 percent of their phones by December 31, 2005, or install technology that automatically locates a caller based on the distance and direction from the phone to the tower transmitting the call. The wireless companies will meet the deadline, but the call center association said only 50 percent of the centers will have the enhanced 911 (E-911) technology to locate the wireless caller.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A16484-2004Feb 5.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *February 06, TechWeb News* — FCC agrees to examine VoIP free service. In agreeing to consider a request for approval of a free Internet calling service, the Federal Communications Commission signaled that it is moving towards solving a nagging VoIP problem: how to satisfy law enforcement agencies wanting to monitor or wiretap Web phone conversations. The FCC has put a petition for a declaratory ruling on Pulver.com's Free World Dialup service on its agenda for next Thursday's commission meeting. Law enforcement agencies have sounded the alarm that VoIP could interfere with their ability to monitor conversations by criminals and potential terrorists. By putting the Pulver petition on its agenda, the FCC has sent out a signal that it may declare the service free from regulatory oversight. Supporters of VoIP want the service to remain free of traditional telephony regulation, which is a stance also supported by the FCC. Some security specialists have maintained that law

enforcement agencies still will have ways of monitoring VoIP conversations once the service gains more traction and subscribers.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB20040206S0009>

27. *February 05, vnunet.com* — **Web applications wide open to hackers.** The vast majority of Web applications are open to attacks by hackers, a four-year testing program has revealed. **According to vulnerability assessments conducted by the Application Defense Center of security firm WebCohort, at least 92 percent of Web applications are vulnerable to some form of hacker attack.** The testing examined more than 250 Web applications running on e-commerce, online banking, enterprise collaboration, and supply chain management websites. **The most common vulnerabilities were found to be cross-site scripting (80 percent), SQL injection (62 percent) and parameter tampering (60 percent).** Although firewalls and intrusion detection or prevention systems were widely deployed, they were found to offer limited defence. Hackers could still access valuable proprietary and customer data, shut down websites and servers, and introduce serious legal liability without being stopped or, in many cases, even detected, WebCohort warned.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1152521>

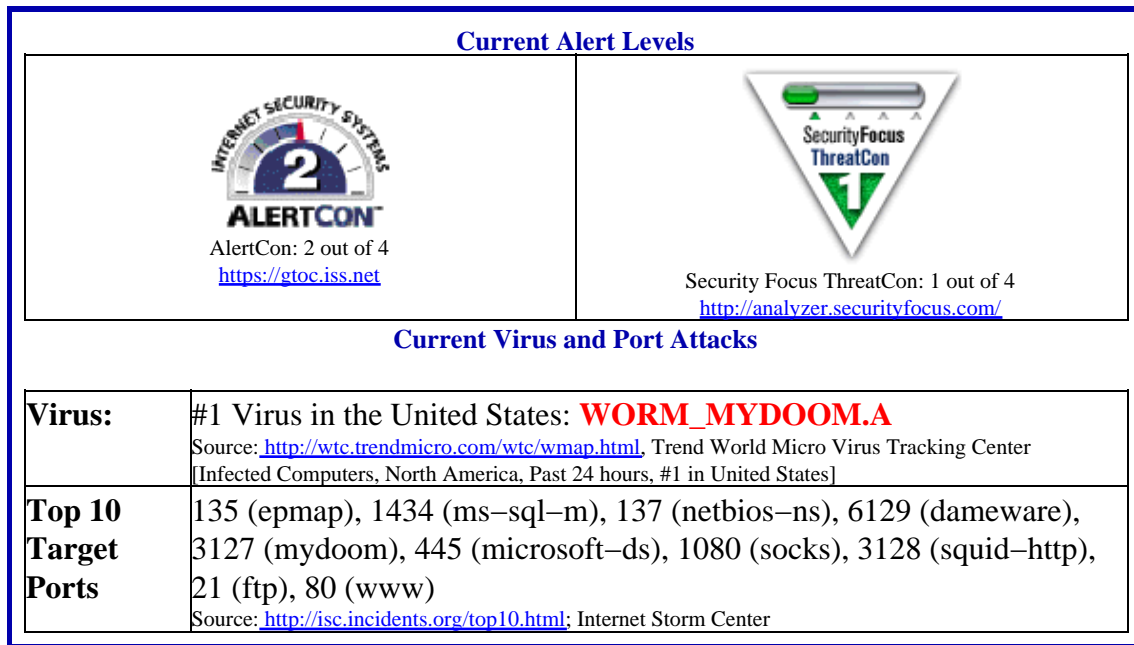
28. *February 05, Government Computer News* — **OMB: Focus on cybersecurity before new projects.** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has told 18 agencies not to **develop, modernize, or enhance IT systems until their cybersecurity problems are fixed.** OMB administrator for IT and e-government Karen Evans said agencies must stop layering new projects on top of vulnerable IT infrastructures, and do a better job of managing their IT portfolios. **"Agencies need to secure what they have, and if they do it efficiently, they will have remaining dollars to meet other priorities for modernization efforts,"** Evans said. The 18 agencies have requested \$8.1 billion for fiscal 2005 and plan to spend \$8.5 billion in 2004 on development, modernization, and enhancement efforts. Evans said agencies could fix their cybersecurity problems by using this money, which does not include funds for general systems operations and maintenance.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24856-1.html

29. *February 05, CNET News* — **RealPlayer flaws open PCs up to hijackers.** RealNetworks acknowledged on Wednesday that three flaws affecting different versions of its media player could allow attackers to create corrupt music or video files that, when played, take control of a victim's PC. The flaws can affect RealNetworks' RealOne Player, RealOne Player version 2, RealPlayer 8, RealPlayer 10 Beta, and the company's RealOne Enterprise products. To exploit them, an attacker crafts the data in a media file in a certain way. When people play or stream the corrupted file in a vulnerable version of RealPlayer, the attacker's code will run, compromising the PC. **The vulnerabilities may affect a large portion of the 350 million unique registered users of the media player software, but RealNetworks wouldn't say how many of those people use the vulnerable versions.** The flaw can be exploited using a specially crafted media file, which can be one of five types: RealAudio (RAM) file, RealAudio Plugin (RPM) file, RealPix (RP) file, RealText (RT) file or synchronized multimedia integration language (SMIL) file.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-7349_3-5154193.html?tag=nefd_top

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

30. *February 07, Herald Sun (Australia)* — **Brigitte terror link revealed. Frenchman Willie Brigitte was sent to Australia by Pakistani terrorists and planned to attack military bases in Sydney, the French counter-terrorism unit DST says.** Brigitte's main contact in Australia was a Pakistani man who was also believed to be part of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba, DST's deputy director, Jean-Francois Clair, told Channel 9's Sunday program. **The man used the internet to view the layout of army bases and attempted to get chemical ingredients for explosives, the program will report this weekend.** The program cites the DST dossier on Brigitte compiled since he was deported from Australia in October last year.
Source: http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5478,8603313%5E662,00.html
31. *February 06, Guardian (United Kingdom)* — **Moscow train blast kills 39, wounds 130. An explosion blasted apart a subway car, in Moscow, Russia, packed with morning rush hour commuters Friday, killing 39 people and wounding more than 130 in what some officials said was a suicide attack.** Russian President Vladimir Putin drew a connection between the blast and Chechen rebels whom Russian troops have been fighting for most of the last decade, and said the blast appeared aimed at sowing discord ahead of next month's presidential elections. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, but Chechen insurgents are blamed for a series of suicide bombings in Moscow and elsewhere in Russia. **The blast came just three weeks after one of Chechnya's most feared warlords threatened new attacks in Russia.** Moscow's subway system, the world's busiest with an average 8.5 million passengers a day, has long been seen as especially vulnerable to terrorism. Police have a videotape of a woman suspected of being the attacker and her alleged accomplice standing on platform at the Avtozavodskaya subway station before boarding the train; the explosion tore

through the train about 500 meters after it left the station en route to the city center.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-3716983,00.html>

- 32. February 05, Reuters — U.S. urges countries to act on illegal nuclear trade. The United States expects all countries to crack down on illicit technology transfers within their borders, officials said on Thursday, after the stunning exposure of nuclear trade activities in Pakistan. A number of countries extending from Europe, Asia and beyond have been implicated in a nuclear weapons black market** of middlemen and parts producers linked to Pakistan's now disgraced top atomic scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan. Khan confessed that he sold nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea. U.S. officials said the middlemen who helped those countries to acquire sensitive nuclear technology operated in Germany, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Dubai, Switzerland, South Africa — and possibly other states as yet undisclosed.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_02_05_eng-reuters_pma_U-S-URGES-COUNTRIES-TO-ACT-ON-ILLEGAL-NUCLEAR-TRADE&SMContentSet=0

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